

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 37 were in the application. Claims 21-31 have been withdrawn from consideration pending allowance of a generic claim. Claims 6 and 7 and 17-20 have been found allowable subject to their being rewritten to provide missing antecedents (claims 6 and 7) and so as not to depend from a rejected base claim.

The application has been amended to overcome all objections and rejections. In addition, new claims 38-53 have been added. All of the newly added claims are believed to be readable upon the elected species.

Claim 6 was rejected because the phrase "said dosing chamber" was without proper antecedent basis. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 which has now been amended to recite a dosing chamber and now provides the previously missing antecedent basis.

Claim 18 was also rejected for lack of antecedent basis for "said magnetic element". Claim 13 has now been amended to depend from claim 11. Claim 18 now depends on claim 11 through claim 13. Claim 18 has been amended to recite "an element made from ferromagnetic material".

Turning now to the art, claims 1-5, 8 and 10-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Torterotot, Gilmore, Halverson, Reynolds, Miller, or Halsey et al. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Torterotot, Gilmore, Reynolds, Miller, or Halsey et al. in view of Cason. Claims 32-37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Boothe et al. or

Harvey et al. in view of Torterotot, Gilmore, Cason, Reynolds, Miller, or Halsey et al.

Torterotot, Gilmore, and Halverson deal with devices for packaging foods and/or pharmaceuticals into containers. Miller is concerned with the deposition of adhesives, sealants and lubricants. Reynolds and Halsey are concerned with dispensing solid particulate matter. Halsey seeks to mix a powder with a liquid for use in a car wash. Cason applies to a windshield washer fluid dispenser and has been cited solely for its venting feature.

The dispenser of the present invention has two chambers for storing and releasing a liquid washing agent into a household washing machine. Chamber 15 contains a maximum dose for a wash cycle of the machine, and chamber 17 is configured to receive and dose out one or more portions of the washing agent contained in chamber 15. Therefore, when the plug 16 opens only once for filling just topping off the liquid in chamber 15, it operates as a dosing plug; then it closes off the supply chamber and acts as a safety device during all the subsequent dosing/dispensing cycles of the plug 18.

The terms "dosing chamber 15" and "dispensing chamber 17" have been adopted in order to differentiate the two. It is clear from the disclosure that the dispensing chamber 17 performs what may be considered a second dosing function, e.g., of a small amount of liquid.

This additional dosing chamber 15 helps prevent drainage of the entire supply of liquid into the washing machine in the event

of a malfunction wherein the plug 18 may become stuck in an intermediate position, i.e. with both the intake duct 17A and discharge duct 19 being open. Upon such an occurrence, prior art dispensing devices which do not have two sequential dosing chambers would allow a complete discharge from the tank 8. In accordance with the present invention, in a worst case scenario, only the chamber 15 would be emptied.

Another important feature of the invention allows for dispensing of a liquid into a washing machine in spaced doses during a washing cycle. Chamber 17 is adapted to be filled and emptied completely at each actuation cycle of the plug 18, whereas chamber 15 may be emptied only partially during each of a number of dispensing cycles.

Independent Claim 1 has now been amended to include the further limitations of

a dosing chamber for said liquid washing agent in hydraulic communication with said tank and said passage, said dosing chamber being adapted for at least partially dispensing said liquid washing agent contained therein in a washing cycle of said household washing machine;

and first and second independently operable actuators for controlling the flow of washing agent from the supply tank to the dosing chamber, and from the dosing chamber to the discharge outlet.

Accordingly, claim 1 is now believed to distinguish over the cited art. Claims 2, 3-11, and 13-20 depend from claim 1 and are also therefore believed to be free of the art.

Independent claim 32 has been amended to include the feature whereby a portion of the washing liquid can be partially dispensed during a washing cycle of a washing machine. Accordingly, claims 32 is now believed to distinguish over the cited art. Claims 33-36 depend from claim 32 and are also therefore believed to be free of the art.


Claims 37, 52, and 53 cover a household washing machine which includes the dispensing devices of claims 1, 32, and 38. These claims are believed to be allowable for reasons given with respect to the respective parent claims.

New independent claim 38 is based on claim 6 which was held to be allowable except for informalities. Accordingly, claim 38 is now believed to distinguish over the cited art. New claims 39 - 51 depend from claim 38 and are also therefore believed to be free of the art.

The prior art cited but not applied in the rejection is believed to be inapposite to the claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,


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